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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,117	01/15/2002	Rabindranath Dutta	AUS920011031US1	8697

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Cynthia S. Byrd
Internal Business Machines
Intellectual Property Law
11400 Burnet Rd.
Austin, TX 78758

EXAMINER

SING, SIMON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2645

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/047,117	Applicant(s) DUTTA ET AL.	
	Examiner Simon Sing	Art Unit 2645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/15/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because there are no labels for references 112 - 118 in figure 1. For example, block 112 should be labeled "Processor", block 116 should be labeled "Network", block 118 should be labeled "User Device", and reference 114 should be labeled "Sensor" per Specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Russell US 5,036,310.

2.1 Regarding claim 1, Russell discloses a method for detecting the presence of postal mail in a mailbox 10. Russell teaches:

detecting at least one piece of mail in the mailbox 10 (column 3, lines 36-66);

mapping the mailbox to a telephone number (electronic address) and transmits an electronic notification to the owner of the mailbox 10 that mail has arrived (column 4, lines 17-36, 48-63; column 5, lines 23-26).

2.2 Regarding claim 5, Russell teaches detecting the presence of postal mail electronically (column 3, lines 54-66; column 4, lines 48-63).

2.3 Regarding claim 6, Russell discloses a method for managing a postal mailbox comprising steps of:

electronically detecting the presence of at least one piece of postal mail in the mailbox to generate a detection event (column 3, lines 36-66); and

transmitting the detection event to a telephone number (predefined electronic address) (column 4, lines 17-36, 48-63; column 5, lines 23-26).

3. Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robertson US 6,307,472.

3.1 Regarding claims 1 and 12, Robertson discloses a method for indication post office mailbox occupancy. Robertson teaches:

detecting at least one piece of mail in a post office mailbox (column 2, lines 27-28, 33-36, 42-46);

mapping the mailbox to a pager number (electronic address), and transmits an electronic notification to the owner of the mailbox that mail has arrived (column 3, lines 12-19).

3.2 Regarding claims 2 and 13, Robertson teaches a pressure sensor (column 2, lines 42-46).

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3.3 Regarding claims 3 and 14, Robertson teaches sending a notification when weight is detected.

3.4 Regarding claim 5, Robertson teaches detecting postal mail electronically (pressure sensing) (column 2, lines 42-46).

3.5 Regarding claims 6 and 15, Robertson discloses a method for managing a postal mailbox comprising steps of:

electronically (pressure sensing) detecting the presence or absence of at least one piece of postal mail in the mailbox to generate a detection event (column 2, lines 27-28, 33-36, 42-46, 60-65); and

transmitting the detection event to a predefined pager number (electronic address) (column 3, lines 12-19).

3.6 Regarding claim 7, Robertson teaches a system comprising:

at least one postal mailbox 11 adapted to receive at least one piece of postal mail (column 2, lines 27-28);

a detecting means (pressure sensor 13; column 2, lines 42-46) adapted to detect the presence and absence of the postal mail, and transmitting a signals indicating the presence or absence of the postal mail (column 2, lines 42-46, 60-65); and

a processing means 14 for receiving the signals (column 2, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2).

3.7 Regarding claim 8, Robertson teaches transmitting an electronic notification to a page number indicate the presence of the postal mail (column 3, lines 12-19).

3.8 Regarding claim 9, Robertson teaches that the detecting means is electrically activated (column 2, lines 32-46).

3.9 Regarding claim 11, Robertson teaches a pressure sensor (weight sensor) (column 2, lines 42-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson US 6,307,472 in view of Beneges US 4,872,210.

Robertson teaches a pressure sensor (column 2, lines 42-46) for detecting the presence of postal mail. Robertson further teaches that the sensor may comprise other types of sensors, such as motion, optical, magnetic, mechanical position, etc. (column 2, lines 49-60, but fails to specifically teach said detecting is activated manually.

However, Beneges discloses a curbside mailbox with a signal generator in figure 1. Beneges teaches a mechanical switch sensing the opening of the mailbox door and sending a radio signal to a receiver when a door opening is detected (column 2, lines 18-27, 39-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Robertson's reference with the teaching of Beneges, so that a mechanical switch for detecting the opening / closing the door of the postal mailbox, and each time the door was manually opened or closed, the mechanical switch would have been activated and the owner of the postal mailbox would have been notified. The motivation of this modification to clarify the teaching of Robertson of the motion sensor and mechanical position sensor, and as taught by Robertson, using different types of sensors would have been a matter of design choice.

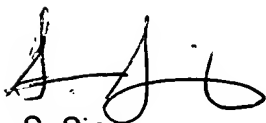
Conclusion

5. The prior art, all related to postal mail detection, made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a) US 4,520,350 (HUANG).
- b) US 4,651,135 (DUHAIME et al).
- c) US 5,023,595 (BENNETT).
- e) US 5,239,305 (MURPHY et al).
- d) US 6,028,517 (SANSONE et al).
- e) US 6,114,959 (BENNETT).


f) US 6,462,659 (SCHUETTE).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (571) 272-7545. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached at (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.



S. Sing

04/18/2005



FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600